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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/642,632

Examiner

Benjamin R Bruckart

Applicant(s)

SERLET ET AL.

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5-28-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 8-30 and 32-44.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 August 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

HOSAIN ALAM

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin G. Shao, Attorney Registration Number 45,095 on 7/26/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Abstract:

Please substitute the following page for the abstract:

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ABSTRACT

A system and method by which users via programs on one computer may seamlessly access files remotely stored on other computers that run a well known file access protocol. All programs running on a personal computer may access remote files as easily and in the same manner as accessing files on the personal computer's file system without requiring any changes to the program's method of communicating with the computer's existing file system using http protocol and WebDAV. An operating system extension and an application level network access program are provided. The operating system extension receives file system requests for remote files from the operating system that were issued according to a well-known application program interface. --

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In the claims:

Please substitute the following for claim 8:

8. The method of Claim 6 comprising:

creating a local cache file in response to the file system request;

locking a remote file being accessed by the file system request for exclusive access to prevent others from accessing the remote file;

caching substantially entire content of the remote file into the local cache file using one or more WebDAV compatible commands; and

returning a file handler of the local cache file, wherein the file handler is used to process the file system request using content of the local cache file.

Please substitute the following for claim 11:

11. The method of Claim 10 further comprising:

converting a WebDAV status code to a corresponding local operating system error code.

Please substitute the follow for claim 23:

23. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which when executed by a processor cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving, at a file system plug-in communicatively coupled to a file system of an operating system, a file system request from an application program via an application

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program interface (API), the file system request being in a format other than a distributed authoring and versioning protocol (WebDAV);

if the file system request involves a remote file system, forwarding the file system request to a network access application program (NAAP) communicatively coupled to the file system plug-in, the NAAP creating a WebDAV formatted request in response to the file system request;

converting one or more characters of the file system request that are unrecognizable by the WebDAV enabled HTTP server into one or more escape sequences that are recognizable by the WebDAV enabled server;

forwarding the WebDAV formatted request to an appropriate WebDAV enabled HTTP server over the Internet;

receiving a response from the WebDAV enabled HTTP server in WebDAV format such that the network access application program creates a reformatted response; and

transferring the reformatted response to the application program via the application program interface.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent Claims 1, 6, 15, 23, 30, 39, 32 teach the limitation "the filename includes one or more characters that are unrecognized by the web server, the network access application program converts the unrecognized characters of the filename into one or more escape sequences recognizable by the web server prior to transmitting the converted file system requests to the web server, the one or more escape sequences representing the one or more unrecognizable characters."

The prior art does not teach the cited limitation.

The combination of claims 2-5, 8-14, 16-22, 24-29, 32-38, 40-41 and 43-44 further teach creating a local cache file, locking a remote file, caching substantially entire content, and returning and synchronizing of the cache that is paired with URI of the web server.

International Publication No WO 97/46956 by Rao et al and U.S. Patent No. 6,212,640 issued to Abdelnur teach similar actions of the claimed invention but are overcome by the file system converting requests unrecognizable to escape sequences to the webserver. U.S. Patent No. 6,119,151 issued to Cantrell et al teaches some obvious limitations of the local cache file but is overcome by the above cited portion as well.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CORRESPONDANCE INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin R Bruckart whose telephone number is (703) 305-0324. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30PM with every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (703) 308-6662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Benjamin R Bruckart
Examiner
Art Unit 2155
brb
August 4, 2004

brb

Hosain Alam

**HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**